

WCMA NEWS

Your source for the latest
in dairy processing

October 14, 2025

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NEWS

Nutrition Programs Struggle for Funding as Shutdown Continues



As the federal government shutdown enters its third week with no resolution in sight, the U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) leader for the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) sent a [letter](#) instructing regional and state SNAP directors to [delay the distribution of funds](#) for November. USDA and the White House have also said they will [redirect \\$300 million in tariff revenue](#) to fund the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC), though it's unclear whether that revenue has been distributed. [READ MORE...](#)

Federal Report Warns of Immigration Crackdown Consequences



In an October 2 [report](#) filed in the Federal Register, the U.S. Department of Labor said the Trump Administration's increased focus on immigration enforcement [threatens "the stability of domestic food production and prices for U.S. consumers"](#). The report contradicts U.S. Department of Agriculture Secretary Brooke Rollins' statement that the nation's farm workforce will become "100 percent American," noting that the U.S. does not have an adequate supply of workers to address the agricultural labor shortage. The Department further [urges "immediate reform"](#) of the current immigration system. [READ MORE...](#)

California Adopts New Law Regulating UPFs in Schools



[California has enacted a new law](#) defining and restricting the sale of “particularly harmful” ultra-processed foods (UPFs) in public schools. The measure directs state agencies to adopt regulations to define particularly harmful UPFs by July 1, 2026, with some restrictions beginning to taking effect in 2032. Class 1 milk and nonfat flavored milk are specifically exempt from the law, ensuring continued access to milk in school meal programs. [READ MORE...](#)

Voting, Nomination Now Open for WCMA Recognition Awards



The nomination and voting period is now open for the [2026 WCMA Recognition Awards](#), honoring individuals for their outstanding contributions across the dairy industry. WCMA members can [vote for Distinguished Service Award](#) nominees through October 31, and submit nominations for the [Babcock](#), [Vanguard](#), [Luminary](#), and [Cheese Industry Champion](#) Awards. Final awardees will be announced in January and celebrated at the WCMA Recognition Breakfast on Thursday, April 16 at [CheeseExpo 2026](#).

VOTE & NOMINATE



H5N1 *Response*

Wisconsin Moves to Reduced Milk Testing Schedule

As of October 1, Wisconsin will move to a 50 percent reduced testing frequency for H5N1, as a result of the state's unaffected [Gold Status](#) in USDA's National Milk Testing Strategy. The Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection (WDATCP) will continue using existing routine milk samples to support ongoing surveillance. To date, more than 19,000 milk samples have been tested with no detections of H5N1. WDATCP updates milk testing data weekly on its [website](#). [READ MORE...](#)



New Study Suggests H5N1 May Remain in Aged Raw Milk Cheeses



A [new study](#), conducted by a team from Cornell University, found that infectious H5N1 virus remained in raw milk cheeses throughout production and after 120 days of aging. Viral survival depended on the pH level of the raw milk, with results found in cheeses made with raw milk at pH levels of 6.6 and 5.8, but not 5.0. Notably, ferrets that were fed the virus-spiked raw milk cheese did not become infected with H5N1. [READ MORE...](#)

Wisconsin Child Care Assistance Increases



[Wisconsin Shares child care subsidy rates have increased](#) following an investment of more than \$123 million in the state's 2025-27 biennial budget. WCMA advocated for this continued child care support, recognizing the critical role it plays in sustaining Wisconsin's dairy workforce and rural communities. These investments are expected to lower costs for approximately 15,000 families. [READ MORE...](#)

Headlines

Wisconsin

- Wisconsin Watch: [DataWatch: Wisconsin-made cheese is special. Here are the numbers to prove it.](#) (Featuring WCMA member Klondike Cheese Co.)
- Sheboygan Press: [Sargento progresses to Top 8 in Coolest Thing Made in Wisconsin contest](#) (Featuring WCMA member Sargento Foods)

National & Global

- ESG News: [Nestlé withdraws from global Dairy Methane Alliance amid broader corporate climate retrenchment](#)
- CNBC: [Trump trade rep says new 100 percent tariff on China depends on Beijing's next move](#)
- South Dakota Searchlight: [Noem's South Dakota neighbors hit with an immigration audit that decimates their workforce](#)

- FarmProgress: [Avian flu hits Nebraska dairy operation](#)
- IFLScience: [Cheese cave fungi help scientists see evolution in real time](#)
- Dairy Foods: [The key to dairy food safety](#)

FEATURED: WEBINARS

Watch Now: Prepare for Immigration Enforcement Action



WISCONSIN
CHEESE MAKERS
ASSOCIATION



**Immigration Enforcement
Action Preparedness**

October 9, 2025



A recording of WCMA's latest free webinar, focused on preparing for immigration enforcement action, is [now available online](#). In this session, members learned the latest news and updates on immigration enforcement, walked through WCMA's Immigration Action Preparedness tool, and discussed best practices for external communication. For a list of helpful contacts and resources shared during the session, visit [our website](#).

Join Nov. 6 Webinar on World Championship Cheese Contest

WCMA Webinar

World Championship Cheese Contest 101

Register today to join WCMA's [next free webinar](#) on November 6, focused on the 2026 World Championship Cheese Contest! We'll cover key details of Contest entry and participation, and reserve time for live Q&A.

REGISTER NOW

EVENTS & CONNECTION

Learn and Connect at Dairy Food Safety Alliance Meeting



Join the [Dairy Food Safety Alliance on October 23](#) in-person in Madison, Wisconsin or online for valuable networking, timely industry updates, and informative presentations. Attendees will hear inspector insights, allergen updates, a look at radiological hazards, and more. [Register today!](#) Thanks to [Nelson-Jameson](#) and [ProActive Solutions USA](#) for sponsoring this meeting. Additional sponsorships are available until October 21.

Build Your Network and Your Export Business November 13

Build your network, get updates on the latest



dairy export trends, and gain insights on strategies to start or grow your exporting business at WCMA's hybrid [Dairy Export Group Meeting](#) on November 13. Discussions will cover risk management, tools for protecting yourself and insuring products against loss or damage, and extending shelf life - including potential shelf-life studies through CDR. Our thanks go to [Locke Transportation Inc.](#) for sponsoring this gathering! Additional [sponsorships are available now](#) through November 10.

RSVP NOW

Upcoming WCMA Events

October 22	October 23	October 29-30	November 6	November 13
Front-Line Leadership Part B: Staff Performance (In-Person)	Dairy Food Safety Alliance Meeting (Hybrid)	Dairy Sustainability Workshop: Carbon Clarity (In-Person)	Free Webinar: World Championship Cheese Contest 101	Dairy Export Group Meeting (Hybrid)

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